

Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 NSC-05 INR-07 CIAE-00 SSO-00

NSCE-00 INRE-00 /036 W

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FM AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 2650

INFO SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L KINSHASA 2886

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CG, PFOR

SUBJECT: SHABA ATTACK

REF: A. SECSTATE 069120 (NOTAL), B. KINSHASA 2683 (NOTAL),

C. KINSHASA 2848

FOLLOWING IS RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS POSED IN REF A:

1. AIR BRIDGE--GOZ IS USING AIR ZAIRE RESOURCES (DC 8 AND DC 10) TO MOVE TROOPS AND SUPPLIES FROM KINSHASA TO SHABA. SUCH EMPLOYMENT PROVIDES A RAPID, ECONOMICAL MEANS OF TRANSPORT AND SUPPLEMENTS THE C-130 FLEET. TO DATE 260 HOURS HAVE BEEN FLOWN WITH FOUR OF FIVE C130'S OPERATIONALLY READY. ONGOING ARRANGEMENTS TO REPAIR THE NOSECONE OF THE FIFTH C130 WILL INCREASE FAZ CAPABILITY EVEN MORE. WE FEEL GOZ IS DOING AN ADEQUATE JOB IN MAINTAINING THE AIR BRIDGE AND DOES NOT AT THIS TIME REQUIRE USG OR OTHER FOREIGN ASSISTANCE IN MOVING MATERIEL AND ARMS FROM KINSHA TO TO THE SHABA.

2. DELIVERY OF USG SUPPLIES:

A. C130 SPARES ARE WITH THE FAZA MAINTENANCE CREWS AND RESIDENT LOCKHEED REPRESENTATIVES.

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B. SWIFT BOAT SPARES ARE BEING CATALOGUED AND EXPECTED TO BE SHIPPED OUT TO THE NAVAL USERS SHORTLY.

C. COMMO EQUIPMENT IS BEING INSTALLED. AT 1730Z 29 MARCH CZAMISH AND ARMA WERE PRESENT WHEN THE HARRIS SHELTER WAS USED TO TALK TO KOLWEZI AND KAMINA.

D. TO OUR KNOWLEDGE APPROX 60 CASES OF C-RATIONS OUT OF SOME

2600 MAY HAVE BEEN DIVERTED. HOWEVER, IT IS POSSIBLE THAT THEY ARE ON HAND AND WERE NOT COUNTED BY FAZ DURING INVENTORY. WE WILL CHECK FURTHER.

3. BELGIAN COOPERATION. A. SINCE USG HAS NO PERSONNEL DOWNSTREAM IN SUPPLY SYSTEM, ZAMISH IS WORKING WITH BELGIANS (& GOZ) COMPARING INVENTORY LISTS, ETC. AS MENTIONED REFS B&C, A THREE MAN BELGIAN TEAM IS NOW MAKING AN INVENTORY OF ALL STOCKS LOCATED IN VARIOUS DDN DEPOTS AND WAREHOUSES. THIS INVENTORY OF ALL STOCKS LOCATED IN VARIOUS DDN DEPOTS AND WAREHOUSES. THIS INVENTORY INCLUDES ITEMS ON HAND AS WELL AS THAT MATERIEL RECENTLY RECEIVED FROM GOF, GOB, \$ 7 &. THIS WILL ALLOW SOME MONITORING OF USG PROVIDED EQUIPMENT IN KINSHASA & WILL ALSO PROVIDE INFORMATION ON EQUIPMENT/MATERIEL IN AO IF, AS EXPECTED, BELGIANS MOVE SOME LOGISTICS PERSONNEL TO SHABA. THE BELGIAN COOPERATION AT THE MILITARY MISSION LEVEL HAS BEEN NOTHING SHORT OF OUTSTANDING.

B. AT THE REQUEST OF GEN. BABIA, THE BELGIANS ARE ALSO PREPARING A LOGISTICS PLAN WHICH WILL GIVE DIRECTION AND IMPETUS TO THE DDN LOGISTICS SYSTEM.

4. FYI: ACCORDING TO US EMBASSY MEDICAL OFFICER MEDICAL SUPPLIES RECEIVED WERE MORE SUITED TO A MEDICAL LABORATORY THAN FOR TREATMENT OF BATTLEFIELD WOUNDS. HIS OPINION IS THAT WE SHOULD HAVE INCLUDED COMPRESSES, BANDAGES, PAINKILLERS, ETC, RATHER THAN LABORATORY DRUGS. IN ANY EVENT THE DDN MEDICAL OFFICER WAS CHARGED BY BABIA TO SORT THE MEDICAL MATERIEL. END FYI. CUTLER

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NOTE BY OCT: DISTRIBUTION PER MR. OTTO, S/S-O.

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